



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS PERSON AWARD

BOSTON -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is accepting nominations for the 2004 Massachusetts Minority Small Business Person of the Year. Nominations must be submitted to the SBA's Massachusetts District Office no later than June 20, 2004.

Nominees will be judged on the following evaluation criteria: (1) Nominee must own and operate a minority small business; (2) the firm must be in satisfactory financial condition; (3) the firm must have been in business for at least three years; (4) if the firm is a government contractor, it must have performed satisfactorily on all contracts, and have no terminations for default; (5) if nominee has an SBA loan, payment record must be satisfactory and loan must be current.

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Minority Enterprise Development Week will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., from September 6 through September 10, 2004. The Massachusetts' winner will be honored locally.

“Minority Enterprise Development Week is when the crucial role that minority businesses play in the economy is formally recognized,” said Mark S. Hayward, Acting District Director of the Massachusetts SBA office. “This week is when SBA recognizes these deserving businesses both locally and nationally.”

Contact Sandra Synnott at 617-565-8512 for an application package.

Nominations must be submitted to Sandra Synnott, Business Opportunity Specialist, 8(a) Business Development, 10 Causeway Street, Room 265, Boston, MA 02222, by June 20, 2004. Any person or organization can nominate a deserving firm by following the guidelines established by SBA.

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